VW-1 TRACKER

ISSUE 10 AUGUST 2002

2003 Reno Reunion

September 15th through the 18th

Yes, it is definite. The dates are firm as a contract has been signed with Holiday Inn for the four nights of the reunion. As is our custom, we will have a large meeting room available to us for the entire four days – one that is much larger than we have had in the past and will afford ample room to display all the memorabilia that we expect to have brought by our members, both old and new.

There are still many details to be worked out, of course – but we did want to share the specific dates with you as early as possible so that you could make your plans to attend. The complete reunion information will be in the May issue of the VW-1 Tracker, along with a registration form for those who wish to attend. We are happy to report that a good deal of interest is being shown by our California members, so expect to have the opportunity to meet some new faces.

The Holiday Inn is about five minutes from downtown Reno, but has a shuttle every hour. The shuttle also provides pickup service from the airport. For those of you who may be driving in, it is easy to reach from the main highway and there is ample parking available. Bring your bathing suit as there is a pool. The Holiday Inn was selected for its friendly, laid back, home atmosphere. We will have the comfort to sit around and enjoy our Continental breakfast and tell sea stories at our leisure. Waiting for buses to events we plan will be comfortable in the spacious hotel lobby. One thing that our members who travel with their dogs need to know is that there is a "no pet" policy at the hotel.

Reno itself has much to see. The Animal Ark is a 38-acre wildlife sanctuary where you can get up close and personal with rare, beautiful creatures & a white tiger named "Khan". The Fleischmann Planetarium & Science Center houses the Star Theater with its Sky Dome giant format movie system and the Hall of the Solar System with many fascinating exhibits. The Nevada Historical Society Museum, founded in 1904, has displays of Nevada's native people, the first explorers to cross the state, the discovery of silver and gold, and the emergence of Nevada's ranching industry and gaming industry. Reno also boasts one of the best museums of art in the country.

The Reno Riverwalk will bring back memories of our time in San Antonio, though it is not the commercialized venture that they have. It is a walkway of marble, granite and bronze with sculptures and waterfalls along the banks of the Truckee River as it flows through downtown Reno. And, of course, there are many casinos downtown that offer a wonderful selection of both food and entertainment.

As if Reno wasn't enough, within driving distance is Lake Tahoe, which is the largest

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News from Cyberspace ... & "Snail Mail"

Pete Armstrong (5/10/02) "The welcome I received when I arrived was fantastic. That made me feel so good. Wished I could have been there sooner. Thank you for making these reunions possible. Yes, I plan on being in Reno."

Darold & Mary Borrowman (5/14/02) "We were sorry that we were not able to attend this year's reunion, but family situations wouldn't permit it. We are sure that a good time was had by all. Darold and friends are in Walker, MN fishing this week. We are looking forward to seeing you in Reno in 2003."

George Dean (4/23/02) "Have a customer who is from Estonia and one who has business interests in Russia, so you might say I'm an international barber. Plus there's one who comes 150 miles from Atlanta & one from Southern Pines, NC (about 200 miles). Too bad the locals aren't happy with me !!!!! But .... The one from Estonia plays cribbage and I skunked him in a game. Guess that is nearing international championship status? How about it?"

Nick Simmons (5/22/02) "Sorry I could not make the trip to Pensacola. I would have loved to have been with my former "Airdales" from VW-1. Maybe next time."

Bob & Marguerite Yonke (5/20/02) "Sorry we missed the rally. Hope you had a great turnout and a good time was had by all. We look forward to the news-letters. Marguerite has dementia and Parkinsons, so life as we knew it is over."

John (Roger) & Karen Martin (5/25/02) "We are headed off to Washington, Idaho and British Columbia on June 7th. Will be gone about seven weeks altogether. Looking forward to seeing you at Reno next year."

Fred Parkhurst (5/24/02) New e-mail address: Email Removed

Bill Kemp (5/19/02) "If you or any of the members are up this way, feel free to stop and visit awhile."

Donn Sjolander (5/15/02) "Thank you for your card and kind words of support. It's hard to accept Bev's passing, but I know she is in a better place and for this I am grateful."

Carl & Velma Bryant (5/02) "My first reunion. Enjoyed every moment. Thanks."

Chuck & Sandra Lange (5/02) "We thought the Pensacola Reunion was a well planned affair and wouldn't change a thing about it. A trip to Fallon and a tour of Top Gun would be nice in Reno if it can be arranged."

Jim & Nancy Stinson (5/02) "Our reunion group tours are a lot of fun. We are looking forward to the Reno reunion. Hope to get a few more members from MN!"

Jack Waterworth (5/02) "I especially enjoyed the beverages and food available in the conference room. If enough interest, maybe we could have a crew golf tournament. Thanks again for a great time on my first reunion."

Tom Dunn (5/9/02) "I loved my tour on Guam. I remember the big coconut crabs and big lizards on the Island and the cattle truck we rode around in. Also remember having to get up real early in Chu Lai to fly out because they suspectged we would have a mortar attack."

Charlie Koeber (5/16/02) "I am sorry I have been unable to attend any of the previous reunions, but other commitments, schedules (I'm still working) and distance made it difficult. If all goes well I hope to attend the reunion next year in Reno and renew many old acquaintances. Thanks for keeping me up to date."

Nadine Mullen (5/23/02) "The VW-1 Association newsletter came today and as I brought it in the house I read it. It brought back all the delightful memories of our trip and being with everyone at the reunion. I had a wonderful time. Thank you."

Howard & Jean Hamilton (6/2/02) "Got the pictures and they are great. We are still enjoying memories of our time with everyone in Pensacola."

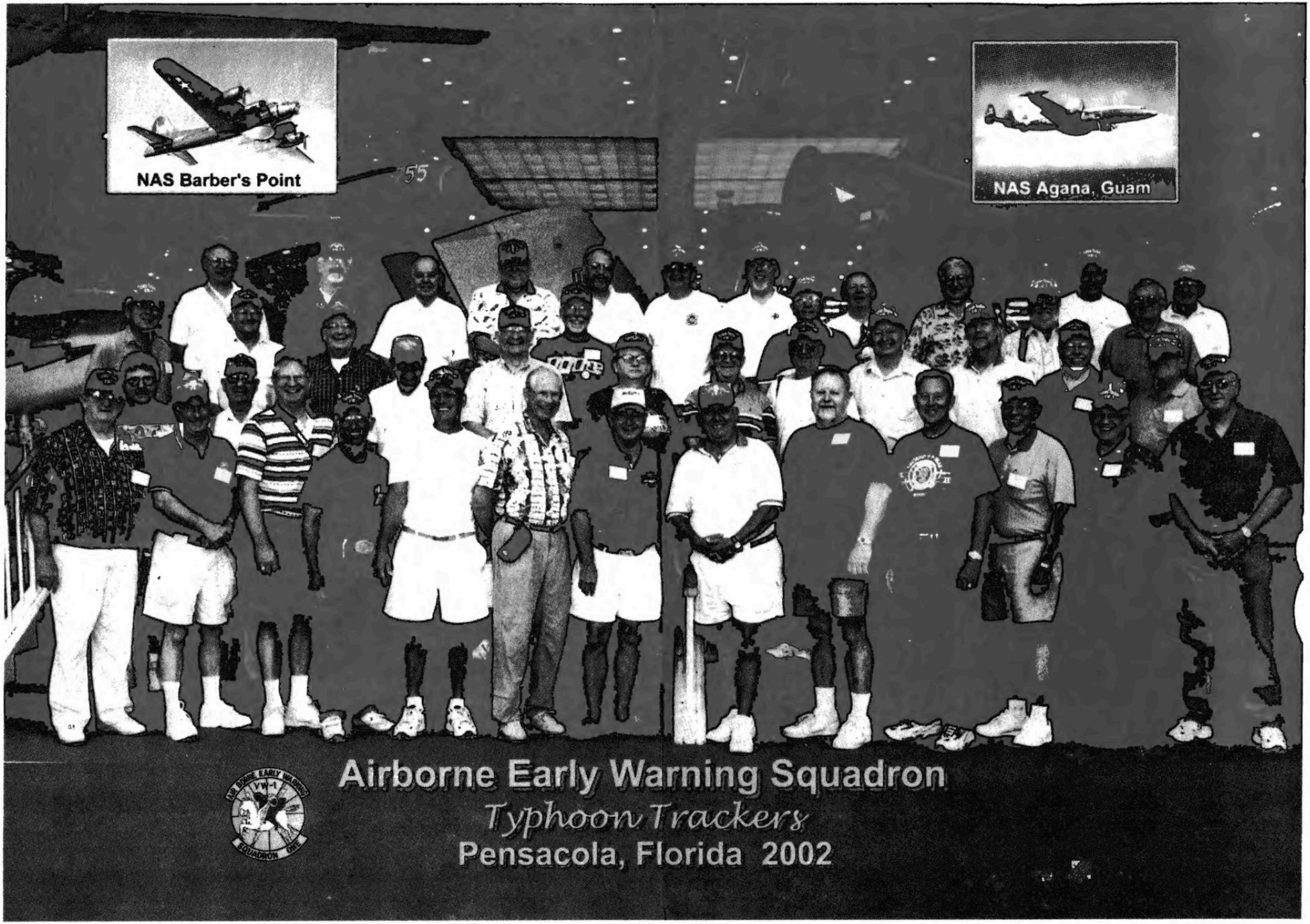
Bill & Kathy Fellers (6/2/02) "Just received the group photo from Mr. Alexander. It was really an excellent photo. I about fell over when I saw the B17 in the upper left hand corner. It was the picture that I brought to the reunion! Again, what a great time Kathy and I had at the reunion and looking forward to Reno.

Cary & Pat Williams (6/4/02) "Thank you for sharing such a great time in Florida! Once again it felt like being at a family reunion. I am amazed that you guys are able to make everyone feel at home (even second wives!) and can plan activities enjoyed by all."

Jack & Sydnie Gergal (6/12/02) "Attending the reunion - for the few days that they last - makes me feel so young once again and so grateful to see those squadron members. There is a tremendous atmosphere of closeness created at these reunions and I hate to see them end. What a great group of people!"

John Castle (6/29) John called with the sad news that Judy Gant, wife of Ed Gant (VW-1 '65/67} died of cancer on June 27th. Our sympathy goes out to Ed.

Carl & Colleen Sorem (5/02) "We had such a good time we would like to come again. However, we will be in Europe all of September 2003."


NAS Barber's Point
NAS Agana, Guam
Airborne Early Warning Squadron
Typhoon Trackers
Pensacola, Florida 2002

2002 VW-1 PENSACOLA REUNION ATTENDEES

Row 1: Jim Reddy, Bill Fellers, Charles Rice, Pete (Taco) Hernandez, Gary Oulman, Carl Sorem, William Rea, Ed Metzger, Cary Williams, John Houdek, Jesse Garcia, Charles Lange and Larry Morris. Row 2: Bob Kral, LeRoy White, Carl Bryant, Ray Keighley, Jim Stinson, Bob Ricksecker, Dick Bleakney, Jim Tandy, Jack Waterworth, Phil Toops and Dick Lee. Row 3: Don Ray, Jim Rice, Victor Zarich, Alan Landon, Ralph Link, John Chitwood and Bill Jones. Row 4: Pete Wasmund, Lowell Buswell, Howard Hamilton, Bob Frazier, Don Johnson, John Sill, Howard Kemp, Claude "Moon" Mullen, Al Madsen, Ray "Mack" Stotts and Jack Gergal.

What's It All About?

Some say that a reunion is just "not for them" and that is a sad thing because of what a reunion *IS* and what a reunion *DOES* for those who attend.

A reunion IS an opportunity to reconnect with an important part of ones life that, in the everyday pressures of living, gets pushed to the back recesses of one's mind. Those VW-1 years were a time of courage and excitement, of fear and sacrifice.

What a reunion DOES is give those who served a chance to remember and rejoice for all that they contributed to their Nation and their fellowman. Just being in the presence of others who served brings back memories and helps to recall experrences that would otherwise be forgotten.

Our VW-1 Association REMEMBERS and ENJOYS ALL that was and ALL that is yet to be.

Apologies to the Galinsky's

Jim & Sheila joined the VW-1 Association in January of 2002. Unfortunately, their application form slid BEHIND a folder rather than IN a folder and we failed to include them as new members in the previous two newsletters. So here it is now in a special place and we apologize for our oversight.

Galinsky, Jim **LT**
Address Removed 2/68 – 6/71
Camarillo, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Sheila Email Removed
Aircraft Commander on Crew 7
OPS – Flight Officer

Jim & Sheila, since the 2003 Reunion will be closer to the West Coast than ever before, hope to have the opportunity to meet you folks there.

----- NEW MEMBERS -----

Dunn, Thomas **AE**
Address Removed 5/66 – 11/67
Gaffney, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Joyce Email Removed

Worked nights in AE shop. Trained on Crew 1 with Cruz Martinez. Crew electrician on Crew 2.

Gross, Deryll (Dusty) **AE3**
Address Removed '62 – '63
Bradenton, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Alice Email Removed

Flight Engineer on TE-3 and 00. Survived Typhoon Karen – the Typhoon of the Century with 220 knot winds.

Goodson, James (Jim) **AMS2**
Address Removed 5/63 – 10/64
Crestview, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Gerri Email Removed

Flew with Crews 4 and 6,until got on Crew 1 in later part of tour.

Kastigar, Jerry **AT2**
Address Removed 6/60 – 4./62
West Palm Beach, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

Flew on TE8 until Dec. '61. The last 3 to 4 Months I was "clerk" for Master Chief Newlee in the Avionics shop. One of the few air-conditioned spaces in the squadron!

Kremer, Don **AT2**
Address Removed 8/60 – 6/61
Pacific Grove, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Diane Email Removed

Flew on TE3, Lead Technician.

Monohan, Norbert **AMS1**
Address Removed 7/64 – 9/66
Gardnerville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Linda Email Removed

Assigned to metal shop under Chief Deems; Later to Crew 7.

Moore, Tracey **ADR2**
Address Removed 2/62 – 8/64
Tipp City, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Cora Email Removed

Nose bay mech; flight mech, flight engineer. Crew member on TE-4, flew some with 6 & 7.

Peters, Jack (Pete) **ACW3**
Address Removed 8/58-11/58
Waupaca, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Kay Email Removed

Flew with Crew 7 with Cmdr. Ambrosio, Cmdr. Shaffer and LTJG Fare, who had to be the youngest PPC in the Navy! Arrived in July of '57 with the last plane load from Hawaii. VW-1 was the "Red Devil" Squadron when I reported for duty. The change to "Rainproof" was probably in anticipation of the changing mission of the squadron. The VW-1 years were truly the best years of my life!

Thomas, Robert W. **AE**
Address Removed '62 - '64
Sarasota, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Polly Email Removed

Arrived right after Typhoon Karen. Flew TE4 and TE5 as second radio until I got my AC wings; then flew second radio on TE00. Flew 00 to Australia, Hong Kong and was on it when it crashed in Atsugi.

Veremakis, Dean S. **LTJG**
Address Removed 1/70 – 5/71
Duluth, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Susan Email Removed

CICO-GSE Officer. Flew primarily with Crew 2; but also with other. Retired 12/98 as Captain.



A WONDERFUL THING ..... happened to the Metzger's at the Pensacola Reunion. The attendees bought a plaque that reads "In Appreciation for your Time and Dedication from VW-1 Association, 2002. Needless to say, this totally unexpected gift truly touched our hearts. We thank you.

FIRST PLACE

PETE WASMUND

Pete has done an outstanding job getting in touch with VW-1'ers since the Search Committee was formed. We have nine new members in this issue; with another 20 packages that have been sent out. The majority of them have come from Pete.

ATTA' BOY, PETE!

Two Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do you select a Hotel for the reunions?

Ahhh! This is the hardest part of any reunion. The first thing we look for is meeting room space. As our reunions center around the meeting room, that is of the utmost importance. This eliminates many, many locations because they simply do not have a room large enough – the standard size for a regular motel being a room about large enough for 30 to 40 people. The larger, name brand hotels have plenty of room but they now call if "convention space" and all the rules change. First important thing is that they now do not want any food or beverages brought into the room unless they are catered by their own restaurant. Big bucks!!! Since our goal has been to keep the reunions affordable, we prefer to bring in our own food at a fraction of the cost. So with the need to have a meeting room and have food available, that narrows the candidates for a reunion site to a very, very few in most cases.

2. Can anyone besides ex-VW-1 members attend the reunions?

Yes, absolutely. There are two ways. First they are always welcome as the guest of any current VW-1 Association member. They will, of course, pay the same fees that apply to the host member and are able to participate fully with one exception. We ask that they not vote in any matter during the business meeting. Secondly, they are welcome to join the VW-1 Association. We have had contact from those who worked closely with VW-1 and know many of our folks from those days. If they wish to join and pay their annual dues, we have no problem with that. They would then participate fully as any other active member does.

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alpine lake in the world. If you are feeling particularly adventuresome, they offer Whitewater Tours both with rafts and inflatable kayaks. Nearby is the Ponderosa Ranch where they filmed the TV series Bonanza. How brave are you? They have guided mountain trail rides with awesome views. In Truckee one can follow the emigrant trail and visit the site where the Donner party was marooned in the Sierra Mountains during the winter in the mid 1800's.

Carson City, Virginia City, the Governor's Mansion, Fallon Air Force Base ..... the list goes on and on. There will be much to see and do during our VW-1 Reno reunion. So for those who said they don't gamble and asked if there would be something for them to do ..... the answer is "absolutely". For golfers, there are many impressive golf courses to try out; and for those who enjoy the games and the tables, there are plenty of casinos.

Before we finalize our events for the 2003 reunion, give us your input at our e-mail Email Removed or send us a snail mail and let us know what is of interest to you. Or you can go on-line and check out Reno and perhaps you will find some things to do that we have not yet thought off to be added to our list. It would help tremendously when we have to choose between many activities.

So make your plans and join your shipmates September 15, 16, 17, and 18, 2003 !!!



VW-1 Association
C/O Ed & Sally Metzger
Address Removed
Inverness, Address Removed

